

REMARKS

In the Office Action of February 15, 2006, claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1, 14, and 15 are independent claims from which all other claims depend therefrom. Claims 1, 14, and 15 are herein amended.

The Office Action states that claims 1-13 and 15-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kokubu et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,745,026) in view of Janssen (U.S. Pat. No. 6,958,551).

Applicants note that Kokubu fails to teach or suggest a non-mechanically operated position sensor, as admitted to in the Office Action. Applicants further submit that Kokubu and Janssen '551 fail to teach or suggest a sensor that generates a position signal in response to a change in a magnetic field generated by stationary rotation of a field altering device. Kokubu only discloses a switch that is activated via mechanical rotation of an ignition lock cylinder. The system of Kokubu does not detect change in a magnetic field to determine the position of a key actuated device. Janssen '551 only discloses the use of hall effect sensors 82 and 83 for the detection of a magnet 26. The magnet 26 is not stationarily rotated, but rather is moved or passed in front of the hall effect sensors 82 and 83 via position change of a lock cylinder 13. Thus, Kokubu and Janssen '551 fail to teach or suggest each and every element of claim 1.

With respect to claim 15, Applicants further submit that neither Kokubu nor Janssen '551 teach or suggest the generation of a magnetic field by a position sensor and the detection of the position of a key actuated device in response to change in that magnetic field. As stated, Kokubu does not detect position of a key actuated device via a magnetic field. Janssen '551 uses the Hall effect sensors 82 and 83 to detect the presence of a magnetic field generated by the magnet 26. The Hall effect sensors do not create a magnetic field, nor do they detect the change in a magnetic field generated therefrom. Thus, Kokubu and Janssen '551 fail to teach or suggest each and every element of claim 15.

Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kokubu in view of Janssen (U.S. Pat. No. 5,836,187).

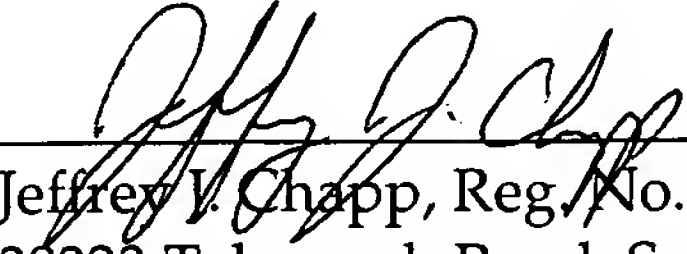
The Office Action states that Janssen '187 teaches a position sensor and refers to col. 5, lines 25-43 of Janssen '187. Applicants traverse. Janssen '187 discloses the transmission of an RF code from a key 14 for enablement of an engine. Position of the key 14 is not detected through such transmission. In col. 5, lines 25-43, Janssen '187 only discloses a key lock cylinder 19. A position sensor is not mentioned in the stated section or anywhere else in Janssen '187. Furthermore, Janssen '187, like Kokubu and Janssen '551, also fails to teach or suggest the recited limitation of the detection of a magnetic field change due to the stationary actuation of a transponder. Thus, Kokubu and Janssen fail to teach or suggest each and every element of claim 14.

Therefore, claims 1-20 as herein amended are now in a condition for allowance in view of the prior art.

In light of the amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all the rejections are now overcome. The Applicants have added no new matter to the application by these amendments. The application is now in condition for allowance and expeditious notice thereof is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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